

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 INR-07 OES-06 IGA-02
IO-13 L-03 /118 W
----- 031653 /23 45

R 161809Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8065
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ROME 13 DEC 76 REPEATED FOR YOUR
ACTION/INFO

QUOTE:

AIDAC: FOR SKILES PASS SHEAR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID
SUBJECT: PROPOSED REMOTE SENSING CENTER - OUAGADOUGOU

1. SUMMARY: DAVID SHEAR, DIRECTOR, AFR/SFWA AND
ODC/ PARIS MET DEC. 10 WITH MR. GARDIN, STAFF MEMBER OF
FRENCH MINISTER OF COOPERATION GALLEY TO DISCUSS SUBJECT
PROJECTM MR. GARDIN AGREED TO TECHNICIAN LEVEL MEETING
AMONG FRENCH, CANADIAN AND U.S. TECHNICIANS ABOUT NID-
JANUARY TO PREPARE COMMON VIEW ON TECHNICAL ALTERNATIVE
FOR AN INITIAL EFFORT AND SUBSEQUENT STEPS AND TO DEFINE
AT LEAST A MINIMUM PROGRAM MODE. MR. GARDIN EXPRESSED
SEVERAL RESERVATIONS ABOUT PROCEEDING TOO RAPIDLY TO
BUILD EXPENSIVE INVESTMENT FOR WHICH WOULD BE ASSOCIATED
HEAVY OPERATING COSTS. END SUMMARY.

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2. MR. GARDIN EXPLAINED THAT MINISTER GALLEY'S RE-
THINKING OF THE FRENCH INITIATIVE AND HIS CONSERVATISM
ABOUT AN INITIAL INVESTMENT MODE WERE DUE NOT ONLY TO
CURRENT FRENCH BUDGET LIMITATIONS BUT ALSO TO GENUINE
CONCERN THAT EXPOSURE FOR HEAVY INVESTMENT IN INFRA-
STRUCTURE FOR FACILITY WITH HIGH OPERATING COSTS MAY

BE IMPRUDENT. AFRICAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO AT LEAST SUB-STANTIAL PORTION OF OPERATING COSTS WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ORGANIZE AND UNDERSTANDING OF HOW AND TO WHAT EXTENT OUTPUT WOULD BE UTILIZED REMAINS UNCERTAIN. HE INDICATED THAT HE FELT EARLIER MORE CAUTIOUS U.S. POSITION ON BUILD UP FOCUSED UPON DOWNSTREAM ELEMENTS (TRAINING, CAPACITY TO TREAT AND ANALYZE INFORMATION ALREADY AVAILABLE, TECHNICAL SERVICES TO BENEFITTING COUNTRIES OF THE REGION) WAS CORRECT JUDGMENT AND THAT MINISTER REGRETTED THAT MIN. COOPERATION STAFF HAD LET FRENCH OUTLOOK ON PROJECT BECOME SO ORIENTED TOWARD UPSTREAM, RECEPTION AND HANDLING ASPECTS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT FRENCH EXPERIENCE IN REGION WITH REGIONAL OPERATING ORGANIZATIONS, I.E., ASECNA AND AIR AFRIQUE, WAS NOT PROMISING BECAUSE PARTICIPATING STATES WOULD NOT ACCEPT FULL FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF REGIONAL EFFORTS; HE ALSO EMPHASIZED UNDERFINANCING OF REGIONAL TRAINING CENTERS ALREADY EXISTING IN AREA, SUCH AS AGTECHNICIANS SCHOOL IN OUAGADOUGOU, INTIMATING THAT ADDITION NEW CENTERS, EVEN FOR SUCH WORTHY PURPOSE, MAY SPREAD AVAILABLE RESOURCES ACCROSS WIDENING NEEDS BASE.

3. MR. GARDIN SUGGESTED THAT INITIAL MODE MIGHT BE TO SELECT FEW PROJECT ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH NEED IS APPARENT AND BUILD INITIAL ACTIVITY ABOUT SERVICING NEEDS THESE ACTIVITIES. SHEAR / HELMAN TOOK EXCEPTION WITH SUCH APPROACH, ARGUING THAT PROGRAM MUST PROCEED ON AT LEAST MINIMUM RATIONAL MODE WHICH WOULD ASSURE DEVELOPMENT OF DOWNSTREAM CAPACITIES INDICATED PARA 2.
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MR. GARDIN AGREED, BUT INSISTED THAT IT IMPORTANT TO DO NEEDS ANALYSIS TO OUTLINE WHERE USE WOULD OCCUR SO AS NOT TO TRAIN PEOPLE AND DEVELOP CAPACITIES WHICH WILL BE

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UNSUPPORTED AND UNDERUTILIZED.

4. THE DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO TECHNICAL ALTERNATIVES. IT WAS INDICATED TO MR. GARDIN THAT U.S. SEEKING TO WORK WITH FRANCE AND CANADA IN DEFINING MINIMUM OPERATING MODE THAT ALL CONFORABLE WITH AND BASIS OF SHARED FINANCING THAT MODE. THEN, ONE MIGHT CONSIDER WHAT ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS, IF ANY, MIGHT BE WARRANTED IF FINANCING SOURCES ARE AVAILABLE. THE USE OF A PORTABLE RECEIVING STATION WAS SUGGESTED AS WERE SEVERAL MODES OF SCALING DOWN THE INITIAL OPERATION. MR. GARDIN THEN RAISED QUESTION WHETHER U.S. CONSIDERED HARDWARE FOR RECEPTION AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF INITIAL MODE. U.S. DELEGATION INDICATED THAT THIS NEED NOT BE CASE FROM U.S. PERSPECTIVE, BUT THAT WE ANTICIPATED THAT AFRICANS WOULD MAKE STRONG ARGUMENT THAT THIS IS ESSENTIAL ELEMENT FROM OUTSET. MR. GARDIN FELT THAT ONE COULD DEFINE AT OUTSET FULL MODE, INCLUDING SUCH FACILITIES, TO BE ATTAINED OVER TIME, BUT WOULD NOT FAVOR THEIR INCLUSION AT OUTSET. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT FRENCH ATTITUDE MIGHT BE TO INCLUSION SOME FACILITIES AT OUTSET, UNCLASSIFIED

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IF FINANCED BY OTHER SOURCES.

5. MR. GARDIN, THEREFORE, AGREED THAT (A) MEETING AMONG TECHNICIANS ABOUT MID-JANUARY TO SPELL OUT ALTERNATIVE TECHNICAL MODES FOR SCALING UP INSTALLATION AND THEIR CAPITAL AND OPERATING COSTS WOULD BE IMPORTANT AND FRANCE WOULD PARTICIPATE WHERE AND WHEN MUTUALLY CONVENIENT; (B) MINIMUM MODE OF OPERATION NEEDED TO BE DEFINED AMONG PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS AND FRANCE WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS ALTERNATIVES WITH CANADA AND U.S. TO SEEK COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION PRIOR TO ECA MEETING; AND (C) FRANCE WAS FULLY WILLING TO HAVE ITS

FACILITY IN OUAGADOUGOU USED FOR THESE PURPOSES. NEVERTHELESS, MR. GARDIN INSISTED ON NEED FOR ANALYSIS OF USES TO WHICH FACILITY OUTPUT WILL BE PUT DURING NEXT FEW YEARS. HE ALSO URGED CAREFUL PREPARATION OF BASIS FOR DISCUSSION WITH AFRICANS REGARDING SHARING OF OPERATING COSTS IN THE FUTURE.

6. FINALLY, IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT IN VIEW OF THE NEW FRENCH POSITION, THE MODE OF INITIAL INVESTMENT TO BE CHOSEN MIGHT MAKE IT ADVISABLE FOR AID TO REOPEN WITH NASA THE QUESTION OF U.S. SUPPORT OF RECURRENT COSTS OR PARTICIPATION IN ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE. MR. SHEAR AGREED TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT IN AID/WASHINGTON AND IF THOUGHT ADVISABLE TO APPROACH NASA. UNQUOTE
RUSH

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